



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

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EVENT: Election 2006

Defendant:

ELECTION 2006

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today the appointment of Assistant United States Attorney Pamela Thompson to serve as District Election Officer for the Eastern District of Michigan for the November 2006 Election Day.

This appointment was made pursuant to the Department of Justice's ongoing Ballot Access and Voting Integrity Initiative, which was established in 2002. The purpose of this nationwide federal law enforcement program, which the Department has implemented during national general elections since the late 1960's, is to ensure public confidence in the integrity of the election process by strengthening and enhancing the Department's efforts to protect voting rights and to prosecute election crime throughout the country.

United States Attorney Murphy said, "Election fraud and voting rights abuses corrupt the essence of our representative form of government. Such crimes harm both the individual voter and the government. They will be dealt with promptly and aggressively."

AUSA Pamela Thompson will serve as District Election Officer for the November 2006

elections and in that capacity will supervise the investigation and prosecution of election fraud matters in this District and coordinate the District's efforts with Department of Justice prosecutors in Washington, DC. As part of her responsibilities as District Election Officer, AUSA Thompson will work with Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). In order to respond to complaints of election fraud and voting rights abuses on November 7, 2006, and to ensure that such complaints are directed to the appropriate authorities, AUSA Thompson will be on duty in this District while the polls are open. She can be reached by the public at 313-226-9770 .

The FBI will also have Special Agents available in each field office and resident agency in the District to receive allegations of election fraud and other election abuses on election day. The FBI can be reached by the public at 313-965-2323.

Complaints about ballot access problems or discrimination can also be made directly to the Civil Rights Division's Voting Section in Washington D.C. at 1-800-253-3931 or 202-307-2767.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy stated that most forms of election crime are easily recognized, such as voter bribery, voter intimidation, and ballot forgery. Other forms of election fraud are more subtle. It is, for example, a federal offense to seek out the elderly, the socially disadvantaged, or the illiterate for the purpose of subjugating their electoral will. Furthermore, every voter has the right to mark his or her ballot in private, free from the watchful eye of election partisans.

United States Attorney Murphy said, "The detection of election fraud and voting rights abuses depends in large part on the watchfulness and cooperation of each voter. If you are asked to participate in questionable election practices, or if you have specific information regarding electoral corruption or voting rights abuses, please make that information available immediately to my Office or to the FBI. Such cooperation in helping to protect the sanctity of the ballot box is crucial. It is also appreciated."

